



NOVEMBER THEME

JAM SESSION

Build a Better Beat

BIBLE STORY

Exodus 17:8-13

We Could Be Heroes | Joshua Wins the Battle Over the Amalekites

BOTTOM LINE

Work together to help someone succeed

MEMORY VERSE

“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

LIFE APP

Cooperation | Working together to do more than you can do alone

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated...and with God’s help I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COOPERATION** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

THIS WEEK—Key Question: Who could you work with to help someone succeed?

Next, we look at **Exodus 17:8-13**, at a time where Joshua was leading the Israelites in a fierce battle against the Amalekites. When Moses held up his staff, the Israelites were able to win the battle. When Moses got tired, Aaron and Hur came to the rescue and helped hold up his arms. The Israelites win the battle because of how they all cooperated together.

Bottom Line: Work together to help someone succeed. Just like Hur and Aaron, it’s important for a child to realize that working together isn’t just about doing something for yourself. You can work with other people to help them win at life, too.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Ask God to help kids see the value in helping someone else do something important, even if it means someone else gets the credit and recognition.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Community Helpers” activity pages, scissors, markers

What You Do:

- Involve kids in helping you prepare for the following activity.
- Set out “Community Helpers” activity pages, scissors, and markers. Allow kids to help you prepare for the following activity by cutting out the cards along the dotted lines and coloring them.
- Commend kids for helping, and encourage them to share ways they help others at home, school, or elsewhere.

•• **RIDDLE ME DO**

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Community Helpers” cards (from previous activity), “Riddle Me Do” activity page

What You Do:



- Set out the “Community Helpers” cards on your small group table.
- Read a riddle from the “Riddle Me Do” activity page, and lead kids to choose the card that answers the riddle.
- When all riddles have been answered, facilitate the following discussion:
 - Can you think of a time this week when someone helped you?
 - Was there a time this week when you helped someone else? How?

What You Say: “Wow! There are a lot of people who help us, aren’t there? There are even times we get to be the helper and help someone else! **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about a time when two people helped someone else in a big way.”**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● **HEAVY LIFTING** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Bible Story Script” activity page

What You Do:

- Assign the following parts from the Bible story to different kids: a messenger, Joshua, Moses, Hur, Aaron, Israelite army, Amalekite army, Narrator (*someone who’s comfortable reading aloud*).
- Encourage the kids to act out their parts as the Narrator reads the “Bible Story Script” activity page.

What You Say: “You are such great actors! Way to get into character. I’m not sure there is any better example of cooperation than this true account of that day when Joshua and the Israelites fought the Amalekites. Not only did the army of soldiers have to work together, but Aaron and Hur had to work together to help Moses, too. They learned firsthand that you can **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone succeed**. Cooperation isn’t just about you. It’s about what you can do with and FOR others! And sometimes your willingness to cooperate can lead to someone else’s success. How cool is that?”

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you worked to helped someone else win. Maybe you raised money for a worthy cause or ran in a 5K to help a charitable organization or sorted food at a food bank. How did it feel to know that your hard work and willingness to cooperate ultimately helped someone else succeed?)

●● **SUCCEED!** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Help Others!” game board, “Help Others!” cards, dice, game pawns

What You Do:

- Play a reverse “Sorry!” game, where the goal is to send the other players HOME instead of back to START.
- Set out the game board, cards, and die. Give each player one game pawn and have them set it on the START square.
- Tell kids that the object of the game they’re about to play is the opposite of most. In this game, their goal is to help OTHERS succeed



and win first!

- Kids roll the die to determine playing order. The player who rolls the lowest number goes first.
- Kids take turns rolling the die and moving around the board.
- The goal is for kids to move their pawns from START and around the board to HOME.
- If a player lands on a “draw a card” space, that player draws a card, reads it aloud, and does what it says.
- **NOTE:** Players only draw a card if they roll the die and land on a “draw a card” space, not if another player moves them to that space.
- If you run out of “Help Others! Cards,” reshuffle the original stack and place it in the designated spot on the game board.
- The game ends when every child has their pawn HOME.

What You Say: “We live in a world that’s all about putting ourselves first: WE want to win the game, WE want to be first in line, WE want to be the best. But God wants us to think and act differently. God wants us to think of others first and work together to help them succeed.

“What are some ways you can **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone succeed?** (*My friend and I can help another friend learn their spelling words; my brother and I can help cheer up my baby sister when she’s crying; everybody on my basketball team can encourage each other when we’re practicing or during games; me and my family can pray for someone who’s not feeling well.*) Great ideas! So, remember: **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone succeed.** It’s not always easy, but when you help others succeed, you’ll be doing what God wants you to do, and that’s a great thing!”

●● **HANDSHAKE VERSE** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible, smart phone (*optional*)

What You Do:

- Show kids how to look up Ecclesiastes 4:9...

Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders: Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. Lead them to find Ecclesiastes in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Ecclesiastes, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Ecclesiastes. Help the kids find the page. When they find Ecclesiastes, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 4.

- Read the verse to your group and then practice saying it all together. Repeat until everyone knows the verse from memory.
- Encourage the kids to pair up. Challenge the pairs to create their own handshake/chant using the words of the verse.
- For some inspiration, you can show the kids this video on your smart phone: <http://bit.ly/2uzdrND>
- Give kids a few minutes to create their handshake and then let each pair share their handshake with the group as you review the verse together.

What You Say: “I LOVE your hand shakes! Each of them was so unique. You know what’s true about a handshake? It takes two people! Two are better than one for sure. I’m so glad God made us for relationships. So remember this week, when you’re at home or at school or playing in your neighborhood, look for opportunities to **[Bottom Line] work together to help someone succeed.**”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

